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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Tomaschko et al.
Application No.: 09/781,388
Filed: February 13, 2001
For: Balloon Cones and Waists Thinning
Methodology
Examiner: Vy Q. Bui
Group Art Unit: 3731

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Docket No: S63.2-9711

DECLARATION OF LIXIAO WANG UNDER §1.132

I, Lixiao Wang state:

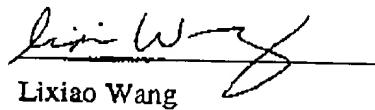
1. I have been employed with Scimed Life Systems, Inc. since 1990. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Polymer Chemistry from Nanjing University, Nanjing, China; a Master of Science degree in Polymer Science and Engineering from Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry, Academia Sinica, China; and a PhD in Polymer Physical Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. My current position is Research and Development Manager and research fellow in the areas of balloons, catheters, stent delivery systems, coatings and drug delivery/biomaterials. I am a listed inventor or the sole inventor on numerous issued U.S. patents as well as many pending U.S. patent applications directed to catheter and medical balloon formation and among other fields. I am very familiar with the processes of grinding, chemical etching and laser ablation as they may be respectively utilized in the field of balloon formation. I have a level of knowledge and familiarity with these processes that is at least equivalent to that of one of ordinary skill in the art.

Application No.: 09/401,618
August 29, 2002

§1.132 Declaration
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2. I have reviewed U.S. Pat. No. 09/401,618 Application entitled BALLOON CONES AND WAISTS THINNING METHODOLOGY, and I provide this Declaration in support of the patentability of the invention described therein.
3. I have reviewed the Final Office Action mailed July 11, 2002. The Forman reference (U.S. 5,733,301) cited in the Final Office Action describes a process for selectively thinning a balloon wall by selective excimer laser ablation. As one of ordinary skill in the art I attest that laser ablation as described in Forman is not considered a chemical etching process as asserted in the Final Office Action. As one of ordinary skill in the art I further attest that in light of the Forman reference it would not be obvious to remove material from a balloon by chemical etching or grinding as described in the present Application.
4. Independent claims 27, 33 and 42 of the 09/401,618 Application are respectively directed to medical balloons having at least one surface that has been ground or chemically etched.
5. I declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: 8/29/2002


Lixiao Wang